In the Claims:

A clean version of the amend the claims reads as follows:

31. (Amended) A method for optimizing a database management system process of a query, the method comprising:

collecting a plurality of single column statistics for a plurality of columns, the plurality of single column statistics providing estimates for row counts and unique entry counts for a singe column operator;

determining a first selectivity estimate based on an assumption that the columns are substantially independent of each other;

determining a first factor as a measure of a skew of the plurality of columns and as a measure of a dependence of the plurality of columns;

determining a second selectivity estimate for predicates in the query using the first selectivity estimate and the first factor, the second selectivity estimate being used in optimizing processing of the query by the database management system.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the first factor is determined by

computing a product of unique entry count selectivities from a sum of maximum unique entry counts for the plurality of columns,

computing a product of maximum initial unique entry counts for the plurality of columns,

computing a ratio of the product of unique entry count selectivities and the product of maximum initial entry counts,

selecting a maximum multicolumn unique entry count from multicolumn entry counts for the plurality of columns, and

computing the first factor from a product of the ratio and an inverse of the maximum multicolumn unique entry count.

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 remain pending. The foregoing amendment corrects informalities in the specification and places the claims in better form without introducing new matter thereto. For the examiner's convenience the marked-up versions of the amended specification paragraphs and claims are respectively attached hereto as Exhibits A and B.